On failure of GT in November, 2008, M/s. General Electric (GE), USA, the original equipment Manufacturer, recommended immediate preventive shutdown of two out of three running machines. During the preventive inspection, cracks in blades were reported in one GT. No abnormality has been detected in the other GT which is scheduled to return to service in early January, 2009 after mounting Blade Health Monitoring System.

On account of the above failures and preventive inspection, currently only one GT is in service and the output from RGPPL, Dabhol has reduced to 300-320 MW.

(b) A feasible estimation for entire capacity build up is August, 2009, subject to availability of funds.

Streamlining procedure for cooked meals to children

*287. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to recommend a procedure, by which all the country's Anganwadis and Government sponsored childcare centres would provide cooked meals to children under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the GoM has been asked to consult State Governments also in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted, on 30.10.2008, a Group of Ministers (GoM) to recommend measures to expedite switch over to Hot cooked meals under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in consultation with the State Governments. The GoM is required to finalise its recommendations within 3 months.

Welfare of street children

*288. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of children in India, mostly in all the metropolitan cities, and particularly in Delhi, are staying on the roadside and selling things at the traffic signals;

(b) if so, what makes them to do so;

(c) whether any step was taken by Government for the betterment of those children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A large number of children in India are found staying of streets and roadside and selling things at traffic signals, specially in metro cities. There are several socio-economic factors for this which include poverty, illiteracy, migration and others.

(c) and (d) Several schemes and programmes are being implemented by the Government for betterment of such children. The following schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development:

(i) **An Integrated Programme for Street Children**: The scheme is implemented for providing non-institutional support necessary for wholesome development of street children. Under the scheme, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are funded by the Ministry for providing facilities to street children which include shelter, nutrition, health care, recreation, education (formal and non-formal), vocational training etc. Childline service is also being provided under the scheme which is 24-hour toll free emergency phone outreach service for children in need of care and protection. Any child/concerned adult on behalf of a child, can call 1098, and avail of the service at any time of the day or night. Childline is available in 83 cities in the country.

(ii) **Scheme for Working Children in Need of Care and Protection**: Under this scheme working children are provided non formal education and vocational training to facilitate their entry/re-entry into mainstream education with a view to preventing their future exploitation.

(iii) **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**: The Ministry has recently formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme, namely, the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for implementation during the 11th Plan Period through the State Governments/UT Administrations with main objective of providing a safe and secure environment to the children in need of care and protection. Under this scheme, provision has been made to cater to all children in need of care and protection particularly beggars, street children and working children, rag pickers, orphaned, trafficked, run-away children and any other vulnerable group of children. However, this scheme is yet to be approved by the competent authority.

English medium education in tribal areas

†*289. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the outcome of education being imparted through the English medium in the tribal areas;

(b) whether their methods of addressing, clothing, music, etc. are getting affected;

(c) if so, whether this matter has been investigated; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.